GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5203
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2002
AVERAGE SIZE OF CULTIVABLE LAND HOLDING
GANTA SRINIVASA RAO;SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a constant decrease in the cultivable land-holdings of farmers in the country during the last many years;

(b) if so, the average size of the cultivable land-holding in the country at present;

(c) whether it is economically viable to cultivate in such small land-holdings; and

(d) if not, the Government`s reaction thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. As per Agricultural Censuses 1970-71, 1976-77, 1980-81, 1985- 86 and 1990-91, the average size per holding (in hectare) was 2.28, 2.00, 1.84, 1.69 and 1.55 respectively. The latest all-India results of Agricultural Census relate toagricultural year 1990-91.

(c)&(d): The viability of an agricultural holding depends upon a variety of factors including agro-climatic conditions, level of use of agricultural inputs, availability of irrigation facilities, crop variety sown and the entrepreneurial skill of the farmer. N o conclusive evidence is available regarding the relationship between the size of an agricultural holding and its economic viability.